

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

DHA-02 ARA-10 EUR-12 /107 W

-----094009 271034Z /15

R 270620Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7333

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, US, LT, XA

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S SPEECH ON AFRICA - LESOTHO REACTIONS (III)

REF: A. STATE 153476, B. MASERU 0967, C. MASERU 1002,

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE ASSISTANT SECRETARIES FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAD VARYING REACTIONS TO THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH, BUT ALL AGREED IT WOULD BE SEEN AS DISAPPOINTING BY THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. THERE WAS ALSO GENERAL ENTHUSIASM FOR THE NEW POLICY. END SUMMARY.

2. MRS. THAKANE CHIMOMBE, AMERICAN DESK OFFICER, FELT THE SPEECH WAS A VERY GOOD EXPLANATION FOR NOT GIVING ARMS AID. SHE PERSONALLY AGREES WITH THIS POLICY, BUT FEELS SHE IS IN A MINORITY AND THAT THE VARIOUS LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS WOULD BE EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED BY THIS PART OF THE POLICY.

3. MR. TSELISO SAKANTSI, ASIAN DESK OFFICER AND OUTSPOKEN RADICAL, SAW THE SPEECH AS REFLECTING A POSITIVE CHANGE IN U.S.

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FOREIGN POLICY TOWARD THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE IT NO LONGER SEEMS THAT THE U.S. WILL PLAY, WHAT WAS IN SEKANTSI'S OPINION, A PROTECTIONIST ROLE TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA. HOWEVER, HE SEES NO HOPE FOR A PEACEFUL OR NEGOTIATED CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND FEELS VERY STRONGLY THAT IT WOULD BE IN USG'S BEST INTEREST TO SUPPLY ARMS TO AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS SINCE THEY WILL GET ARMS FROM WHATEVER SOURCE IS AVAILABLE. THE SOURCE IS MOST

LIKELY TO BE CUBA OR U.S.S.R. IF USG REFUSEE. HE FELT IT WAS
CORRECT NOT TO HAVE A FOREIGN POLICY BASED ON REACTING TO THE
U.S.S.R.'S OR CUBA'S ACTIVITIES, BUT THAT THE U.S. SHOULD USE ITS
WORLD LEADERSHIP POSITION TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN HELPING THE
LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

4. COMMENT: THE YOUNGER OFFICIALS ARE IN AGREEMENT WITH THE MORE
SENIOR OFFICIALS IN THEIR ENTHUSIASM FOR THE NEW POLICY,
ALTHOUGH BOTH GROUPS HAVE THEIR MISGIVINGS. THE YOUNGER OFFICERS
FEEL THAT THE U.S. HAS MORE POWER AND INFLUENCE THAN IT IS WILLING

TO USE, AND THAT USG IS POSSIBLY MAKING A MISTAKE VIS-A-VIS THE
LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND THEIR FUTURE IN AFRICA. U.S. CREDIBILITY
WITH YOUNGER OFFICERS IS DEPENDENT ON ACTIONS AND THE PRESENT
GOODWILL COULD EVAPORATE QUICKLY IF ACTION IS NOT FORTHCOMING.
STOKES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPEECHES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MASERU01091
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770267-0824
Format: TEL
From: MASERU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770714/aaaaalxo.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8914f762-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 153476, 77 MASERU 967, 77 MASERU 1002
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1735695
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S SPEECH ON AFRICA - LESOTHO REACTIONS (III)
TAGS: SOPN, US, LT, XA, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8914f762-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009